

IN THE CLAIMS:

Rewrite the pending claims and add new claims as follows:

1. (Presently Amended) A lever for grasping bone tissue, comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, and defining a first channel;
a claw member ~~disposed on the distal end of~~ associated with the shaft for holding the bone tissue;
a locking member ~~defining~~ having a second channel substantially aligned with the first channel, the locking member movable between a first position and a second position;
a rod at least partially received in the first and second channels for engaging the bone tissue; and
a retaining member for retaining the locking member in the second position;
wherein the rod is axially slidable in the first channel when the locking member is in the first position, and the rod is substantially prevented from axial sliding in the first channel when the locking member is in the second position.
2. (Original) The lever of claim 1, wherein the retaining member substantially prevents movement of the locking member to the first position.
3. (Original) The lever of claim 1, wherein the retaining member is movable between a retaining position wherein the retaining member retains the locking member in the second position, and a non-retaining position wherein the locking member is movable from the second position to the first position.
4. (Original) The lever of claim 3, wherein the retaining member is slidable between the retaining position and the non-retaining position.
5. (Original) The lever of claim 3, wherein when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member engages a portion of the locking member.
6. (Original) The lever of claim 3, wherein the locking member defines a third channel, and when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member is received in the third channel
7. (Original) The lever of claim 6, wherein the retaining member includes a substantially cylindrical engagement portion for being received in the third channel.
8. (Original) The lever of claim 3, further including at least one detent for releasably holding the retaining member in the retaining position.

9. (Original) The lever of claim 3, further including at least one detent for releasably holding the retaining member in the non-retaining position.
10. (Presently Amended) A lever for grasping bone tissue comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, and defining a first channel;
a claw member ~~disposed on the distal end of~~ associated with the shaft for holding the bone tissue;
a rod received in the first channel for engaging the bone tissue;
a locking member operatively associated with the shaft and moveable between a first position wherein the rod is axially slidable in the first channel, and a second position wherein the locking member threadably engages the shaft to substantially prevent axial sliding of the shaft in the first channel; and
a retaining member for retaining the locking member in the second position.
11. (Original) The lever of claim 10, wherein the retaining member substantially prevents movement of the locking member to the first position.
12. (Original) The lever of claim 10, wherein the retaining member is movable between a retaining position wherein the retaining member retains the locking member in the second position, and a non-retaining position wherein the locking member is movable from the second position to the first position.
13. (Original) The lever of claim 12, wherein the retaining member is slidable between the retaining position and the non-retaining position.
14. (Original) The lever of claim 12, wherein when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member engages a portion of the locking member.
15. (Original) The lever of claim 12, wherein the locking member defines a third channel, and when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member is received in the third channel.
16. (Original) The lever of claim 15, wherein the retaining member includes a substantially cylindrical engagement portion for being received in the third channel.
17. (Original) The lever of claim 12, further including at least one detent for releasably holding the retaining member in the retaining position.
18. (Original) The lever of claim 12, further including at least one detent for releasably holding the retaining member in the non-retaining position.
19. (Original) A lever for grasping bone tissue, comprising:
a shaft having a claw member for holding the bone tissue, the shaft defining a first channel;

a rod at least partially received in the first channel for biasing the bone tissue into the claw member;

a locking member movably associated with the shaft between a first position wherein the rod is axially slidable in the first channel, and a second position wherein the rod is substantially prevented from axial sliding in the first channel; and

a retaining member for retaining the locking member in the second position.

20. (Original) The lever of claim 19, wherein when the locking member is in the second position, rotation of the rod with respect to the shaft causes the rod to move substantially axially with respect to the shaft.

21. (Original) The lever of claim 19, wherein:
the locking member includes a first threaded portion;
the rod includes a second threaded portion; and
the first threaded portion engages the second threaded portion when the locking member is in the second position.

22. (Original) The lever of claim 21, wherein the locking member is resiliently biased toward the second position.

23. (Original) The locking member of claim 21, wherein:
the locking member defines a second channel;
a portion of the rod extends through the second channel; and
the first threaded portion is formed on the second channel.

24. (Original) The lever of claim 19, wherein the retaining member is movable between a retaining position wherein the retaining member retains the locking member in the second position, and a non-retaining position wherein the locking member is movable from the second position to the first position.

25. (Original) The lever of claim 24, wherein the retaining member is slidable between the retaining position and the non-retaining position.

26. (Original) The lever of claim 24, wherein when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member engages a portion of the locking member.

27. (Original) The lever of claim 26, wherein the locking member defines a third channel, and when the retaining member is in the retaining position, a portion of the retaining member is received in the third channel.

28. (New) The lever of claim 1, wherein the rod has a threaded portion containing screw threads and rotation of the rod when the locking member is in the second position moves the rod with respect to the first channel.

29. (New) The lever of claim 20, wherein the rod has a threaded portion containing screw threads and rotation of the rod when the locking member is in the second position moves the rod with respect to the first channel.

30. (New) The lever of claim 19, wherein the rod has a threaded portion containing screw threads and rotation of the rod when the locking member is in the second position moves the rod with respect to the first channel.